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それを“枢(とざし)”と言う!!

味方も敵も関係なくただただ人間を喰らい尽くしていく牙鳳丸。
最強の魔物の封印にすべてを賭ける錠之介!!

漫画アクション
毎月第1第3火曜日発売

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闇鍵師
くろかぎや屋敷之介
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YAMIKAGISHI 4

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第25話◎秘錠の密偵12

AM I STILL ALIVE ?
.....
.....

THAT WAS TOTALLY RECKLESS, YOU KNOW THAT?
YEAH.

I FEEL SO POWER-LESS
EVEN MY BOMBS-HELLS DIDN'T SUFFICE ...
I DON'T KNOW.
HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN AFTER THE EXPLOSION
WHAT ABOUT GAHOU-MARU?
HAVE I BEEN ABLE TO AVENGE JIROUTA-SAMA PRO-PERLY?

EXACTLY.
I OWE YOU MY LIFE.
NO. NOT AT ALL.
YOU DID WELL.
THE SATSUMA HAVE ALSO CLEARED THE PLACE.
WHAT OF ISSHIN-SAMA?
.....
.....

AS LONG AS THEY'RE UNHARMED .....
THEY PROBABLY DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE STILL ALIVE.

IF ONLY I HADN'T LOST MY MEM.....
YOU'VE JUST FOUND OUT WHAT A MONSTROUS BEAST YOUR LEADER WAS.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SHOCK.
I HAVE NO REGRETS.
.....
.....
THANK YOU, TETSU-JUU.
EH?
ENOUGH. DON'T YOU SAY ANYTHING MORE!

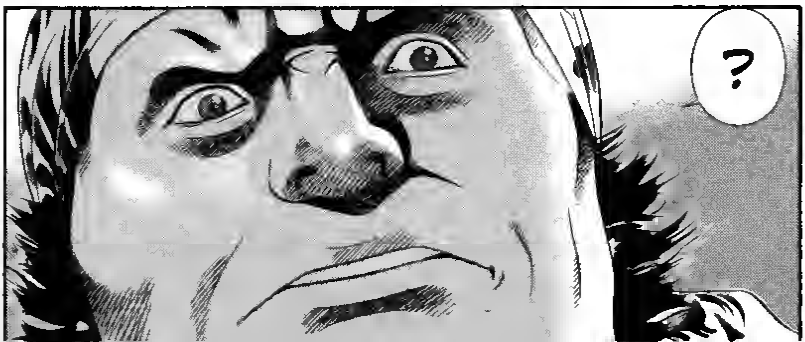
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOUR NAME IS, AT THAT.
I NEVER THANKED YOU PROPERLY FOR THAT.
WHEN I WAS WASHED ASHORE, YOU UNQUESTIONINGLY CAME TO MY RESCUE
IN THE KANJI FOR UKIHA MEAN RESPECTIVELY "FLOAT/RISE" AND "FEATHER"
I SEE.
THE NAME WAS TAILOR-MADE FOR YOU.
IT'S UKIHA.
SPELLED LIKE A FEATHER THAT'S RISING.
TRUE. I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD YOU.

UH!
THAT STRING .....
NOW THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY A-BOUT
BECAUSE OF THAT STRING?

I'M HAPPY YOU BROUGHT IT WITH YOU
YE... YEAH.

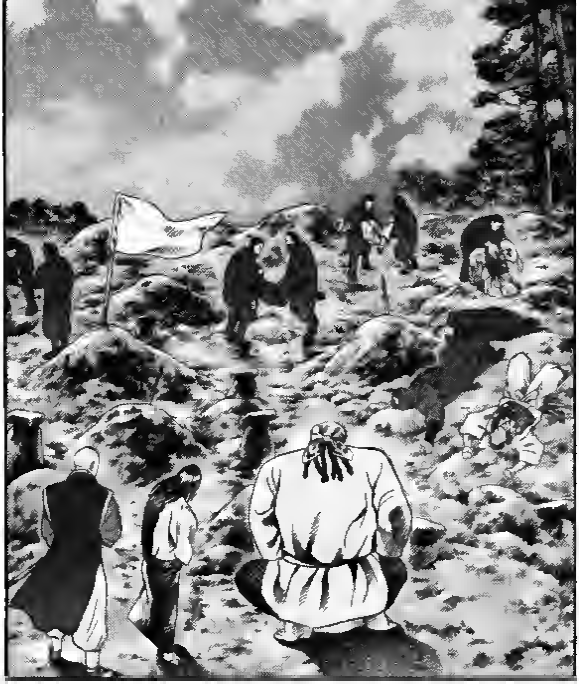
I HAVE CREATED A KEKKAI.

JUST AS I THOUGHT.
.....
.....


?

YOUR HANDS ARE SO WARM .....

ドド…
UKIHA?
!!
UKIHA!



DAMN IT.
IF ONLY I'D BEEN FORGING MY EVIL-SEALING LOCKS MORE CAREFULLY !!

TETSUJUU. SAVE THE MOURNING FOR LATER.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP IF WE ARE TO SEAL GAHOUMARU
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR EVIL SEALING LOCK HAS BEEN ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL
THE DEMONS WHO APPEAR IN OUR WORLD CAN'T BE KILLED BY MUNDANE WEAPONRY
THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO PURIFY THEM THROUGH SEALING
SO HE'S REALLY ALIVE?
EVEN AFTER THAT BLAST?

?!
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR JOB TO PROTECT THE TOKUGAWA SOCIETY, YES?
NOT QUITE.
WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NONETHE-LESS.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TOKUGAWA OR SATSUMA.
MY ONLY WISH IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE IN THIS WORLD.

.....
.....
HEAD OF THE IGA CLAN. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BORROW YOUR FORGES.

I'LL BE TAKING MY LEAVE.
I HAVE A JOB TO DO.
THEY'RE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, TETSU-JUU.
.....
.....
LEAD THE WAY.

LET THOSE WHO CAN MOVE KEEP WATCH IN TURN.
ALRIGHT. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AT ANY PRICE UNTIL WE HAVE REACHED SATSUMA!

?
カサ
カカカ
ヨッ
ギョロ

HIIIC
WHAT IS THAT THING?
....
....
!!
ISSHIN-SAMA, LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT IS IT? WHY THE COM-MOTION?

GAHOU-MARU ?!
ISSHIN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SO YOU WERE ALIVE, AFTER ALL ?!
I SAID WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

WE NO LONGER CONSIDER AN ABERRATION LIKE YOURSELF AS OUR LEADER.
I CAN'T REMEMBER AUTHORISING ANY OF THIS.
THE IGA HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR PLANS. WE HAVE NO MORE REASON TO STAY IN EDO.
WE NEED TO MAKE NEW PREPARATIONS AND REASSESS OUR PLANS IF WE ARE TO INFILTRATE EDO CASTLE.

SHINOBI ARE PARIAHS AND ABOMINATIONS.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

DEVIANCY? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?!
IS THAT THE REASON WHY YOU FELL INTO SUCH DEVIANCY?
IS IT NOT THE VERY DESTINATION WE ARE ALL TRYING TO REACH?
POSSESSING POWER BEYOND THAT OF HUMANITY

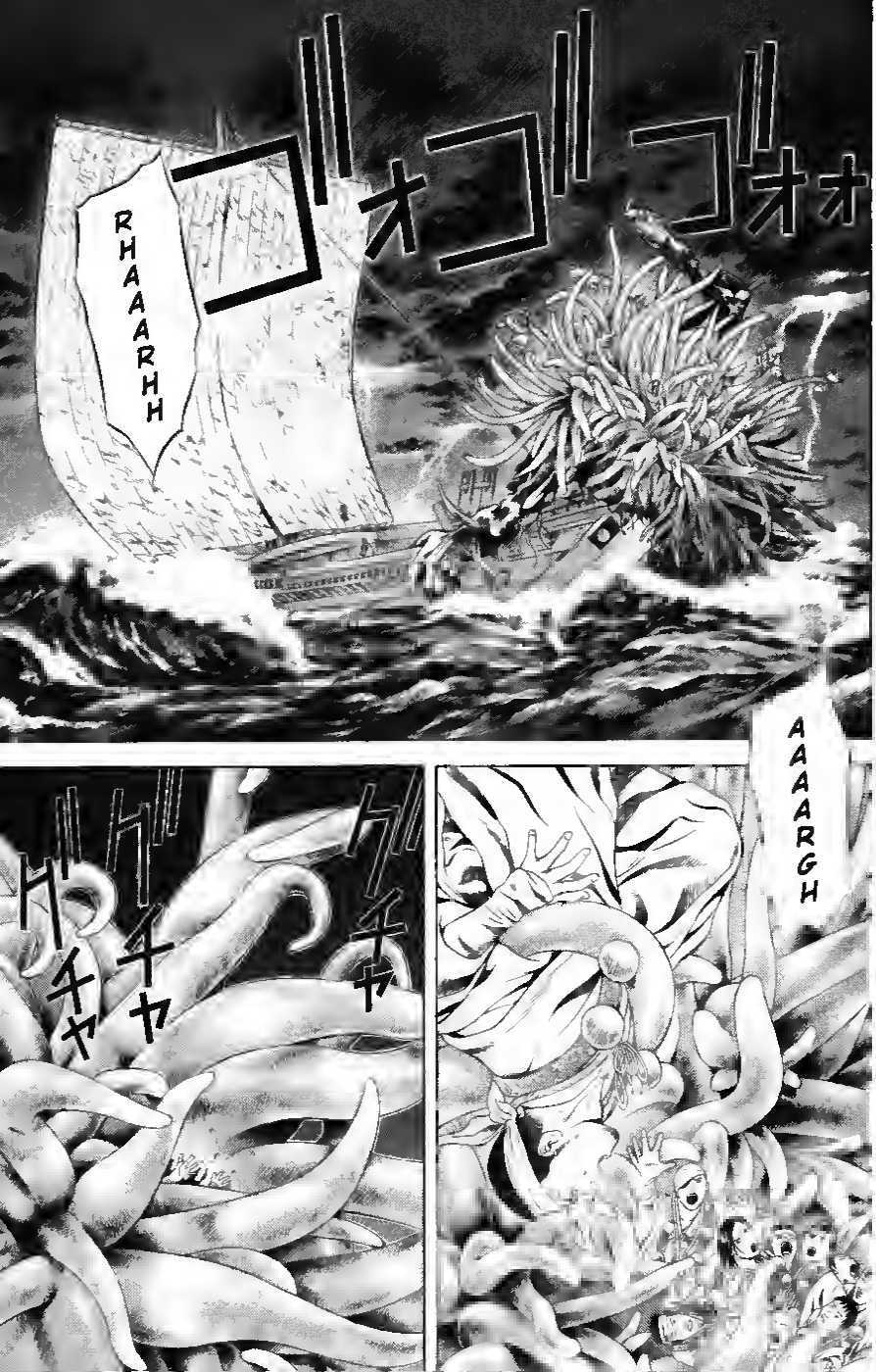
ISN'T THE FACT THAT YOU STILL LIVE IN THAT STATE PROOF ENOUGH OF YOUR HERESY?
I PRESUME YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE REST OF MY BODY?
AAAH
THEN YOU NEED NOT WORRY.
IT'S RIGHT THERE, BEHIND YOURSELF AND THE REST OF THE DOGS.
!!

ヤマイヤ
IF YOU WON'T HEED MY WORD, I HAVE NO MORE NEED FOR YOU.
I MIGHT AS WELL LET YOU BECOME MY FOOD.

コオオオー
コオオオー
コオオオー
IF ONLY I HADN'T LOST MY MEM.....
ポロ
YOU'VE JUST FOUND OUT WHAT A MONSTROUS BEAST YOUR LEADER WAS
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A SHOCK
I HAVE NO REGRETS.

第26話◎秘錠の密偵⑬

I SHALL DISPEL YOUR REGRETS MYSELF.


ゴォゴォゴォオ
RHAAARHH
AAAARGH
カチャ
カチャ
カチャ

DAMN YOOUU !!
.....
JIROUTA?
YES. HE WAS A DELICACY.
IS THIS THE WAY YOU DE-VOURED MY BROTHER JIROUTA AS WELL ?!
CURSE YOU, GAHOU-MARU!
.....
.....

LE
LET ME GO!
IS-SHIN.
YOU ARE A SHINOBI, AND YOU'RE POWER-FUL.
YOU SHOULD BE AN EVEN TASTIER MOR-SEL THAN JIROUTA.
YOU ACCURSED MONSTRO-SITY!
YOU HAVE DECEIVED US, WITH PROMISES OF TOPPLING THE TOKU-GAWA!

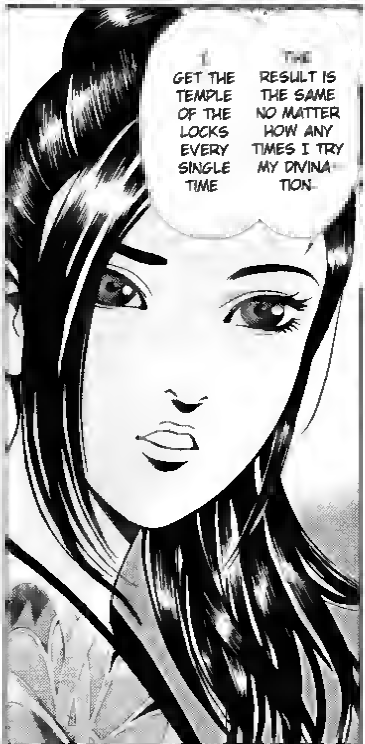
I MEAN TO GO THERE.
BE AT EASE.
?
IT SHALL BE A TRIFLE FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME.
I'LL GO, AND I WILL FEAST UPON THE SHOGUN'S FLESH AND BLOOD.

……
……
スカアア！

.....
WELL WELL WELL. TIME TO GO.

TEMPLE OF THE LOCKS
HOW STRANGE
.....
THAT AGAIN.
JOU-SAN!

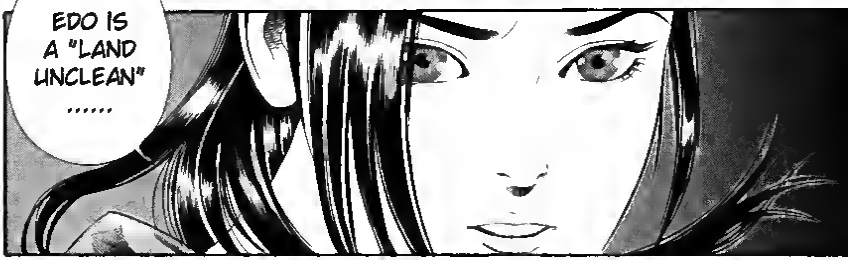
IT'S EXTREMELY BIZARRE I THOUGHT I'D WAIT FOR YOU TO COME BACK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


I GET THE TEMPLE OF THE LOCKS EVERY SINGLE TIME
THE RESULT IS THE SAME NO MATTER HOW ANY TIMES I TRY MY DIVINATION

HOW DID IT GO, O-KIN?
HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE GAHOUMARU'S WHEREABOUTS?

AM I DOING SOMETHING WRONG?
.....
.....
BECAUSE I DOUBT GAHOUMARU EVEN KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE.
IT WOULD BE VERY STRANGE FOR HIM TO BE HERE.
EVEN IF WE ASSUME HE IS IN HIDING SOMEWHERE,
I CAN'T SEEM TO LOCATE GAHOUMARU WITH MY PODOMANCY.
THERE'S AN ENORMOUS DEMON RUNNING ABOUT TOWN, AND I CAN'T EVEN DIVINE WHERE IT IS.
SO EVEN IF I TRIED NOW
NO. IT'S UNLIKELY TO WORK ANY BETTER
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE HE'S A SHINOBI.
HIS SPIRITUAL TRAINING ALLOWS HIM TO KEEP HIS EVIL POWERS UNDER CONTROL.

PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPT, CONSUMING POWER THAT NESTS WITHIN THIS TOWN.
EVER SINCE HE'S COME TO EDO, GAKOUMARU'S EVIL POWERS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENING BEYOND HIS CONTROL.



TN: IN JAPANESE, "EDO HA EDO". WITH THE SECOND "EDO" REFERRING TO THE BUDDHIST NOTION OF "IMPURE WORLD".

HERE'S A FRAGMENT OF THE LOCK I COULDN'T SEAL HIM WITH.
USE IT AND TRY YOUR DIVINATION AGAIN.
.....
.....

.....
.....
!!
WHY?!

THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH YOUR DIVINATION!
WATCH OUT, O-KIN.
WHERE?
WHERE IS HE?!
HE'S MAKING HIS WAY HERE!

JOU-SAN. OVER THERE!
IS THAT GAHOU-MARU?!

YOU PEOPLE HAVE A LARGE ARRAY OF FASCINATING POWERS AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
OOOH. SHE'S A DIVINER?
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE?

SQUICK
HIC
SQUI-
IIRRRM
.....

O-KIN. GET IN-SIDE!
I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOUR BEFORE I PROCEED TO THE EDO CASTLE.
26th TALE: END

I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOUR BEFORE I PROCEED TO THE EDO CASTLE.
第27話
秘錠の密偵
14

THE EDO CASTLE?
BUT THE SATSUMA SHINOBI ARE NO LONGER FOLLOWING YOU.
HAHAHAHAHA

YOU WRETCH !!
!
YOU ARE PERFECTLY RIGHT.
BY NOW, THEY HAVE ALREADY BECOME MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD.
THEY ARE NO MORE.

I SHOULD HAVE MADE MY WAY THERE ALL ALONE, FROM THE BEGINNING
I HAVE NO MORE NEED FOR THESE PETTY TRICKS.
USING THEM TO GET A KEY TO DAIMARU, AND SO FORTH.
REALLY. I'VE BEEN PROCEEDING IN SUCH A ROUNDABOUT MANNER.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
YOU'RE A DEMON. NOTHING MORE.
YOU DID IT BECAUSE SOMETHING STILL REMAINED OF YOUR HUMANITY.
AS A SHINOBI FULFILLING YOUR MISSION WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN ANYTHING ELSE
?
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ?

DRIVEN ONLY BY YOUR CRAVING FOR HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD.
NOW YOU'VE DE-VOLVED INTO A WRETCHED, PATHETIC CREATURE.

ドオワッ
WRETCHED? PATHETIC?
HAH

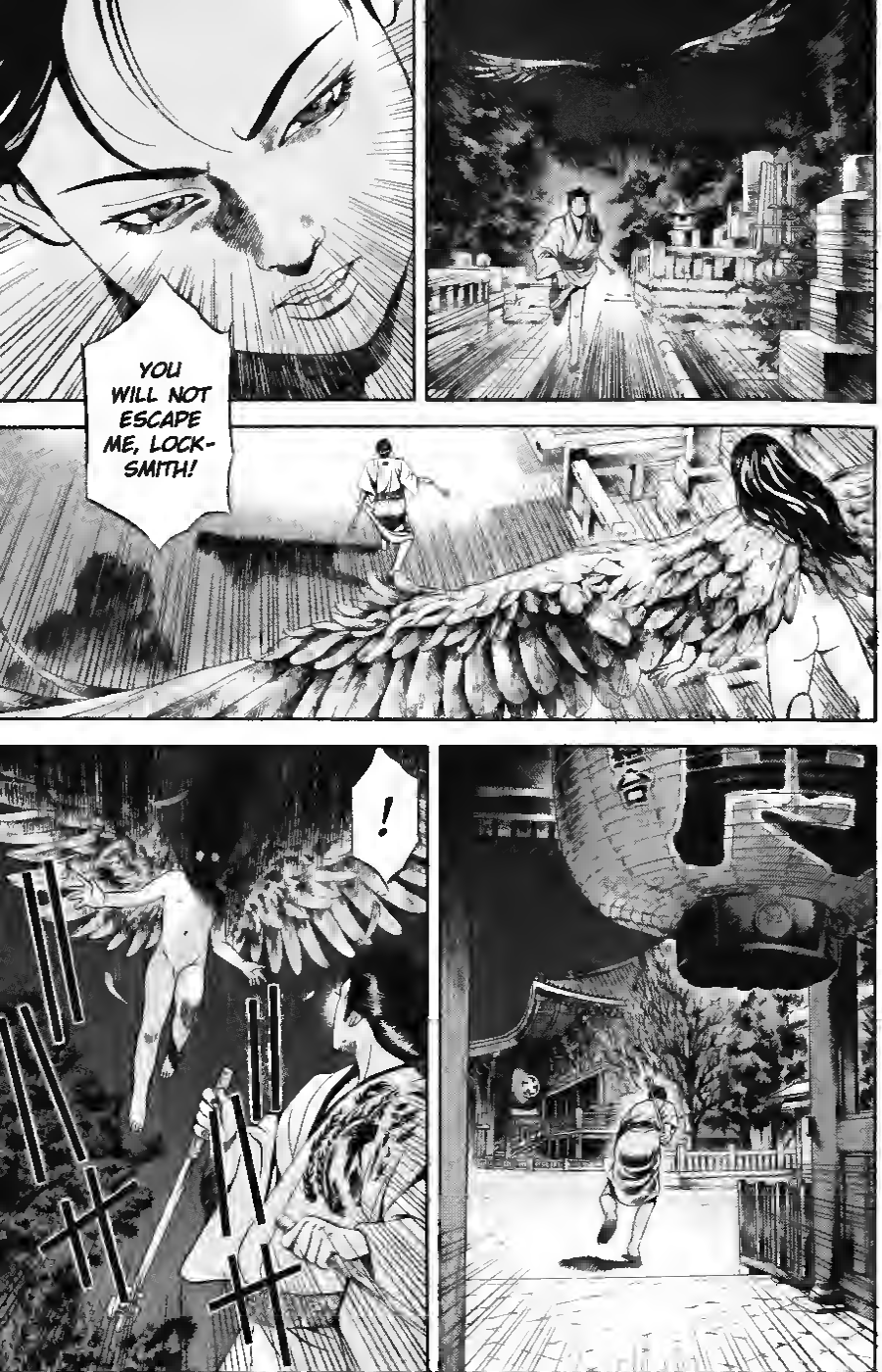
I FAIL TO SEE ANYTHING PATHETIC ABOUT THAT POWER.
!!!
.....
.....
WHAT HAVE YOU JUST THOUGHT ABOUT?

SO WHAT OF IT ?
YOU WANTED TO SUP ON THAT BLOOD
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT
.....
.....

THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU PATHETIC!

I'VE LOST COUNT OF ALL THE IMPERTINENT REMARKS YOU'VE MADE TODAY.
WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?
.....
.....
HUHU-HUHU. NO MATTER.
O-KIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET INSIDE. QUICK !!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE !!


YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE ME, LOCK-SMITH!
!

THAT'S AS
FAR AS
YOU'LL GO!

DIE
!!

PAH
!
YOU ARE STILL BLEEDING RED, IT SEEMS.

BOL-
LOCKS
!!
ARGH

POOR FOOL.
HOW NAIVE !!
!!
ギュル

スルスル
ドイドイ

!
URGH.

YOUR POWERS AND STRENGTH ARE MINE TO FEAST UPON.
27th TALE: END

ギュウウウ!
ギュウウ
RAAAAAH

?!
AUUGH
WHAT WAS THAT ?!

SURPRISED?
MY ACCESSORIES ARE COATED IN THE SAME METAL AS THE EVIL-SEALING LOCKS.
第28話
秘錠の宴
15

JOU-SAN. I'M GOING TO SAVE YOU.
STAY AWAY, O-KIN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
PES-TIFEROUS WOMAN.!
ボコッ
ボコッ

ドン！
スレ

ヨタヨタ
!
O-KIN. RUN AWAY!

キュ
THIS ENDEARING FORM WON'T GET YOU ANY AMOUNT OF CLEMENCY.

キャー!
ギュ!

!
YOU HAVE TO BE JOK-ING.
I'LL NEVER SEE THE END OF THIS.

AAAAH
OW.

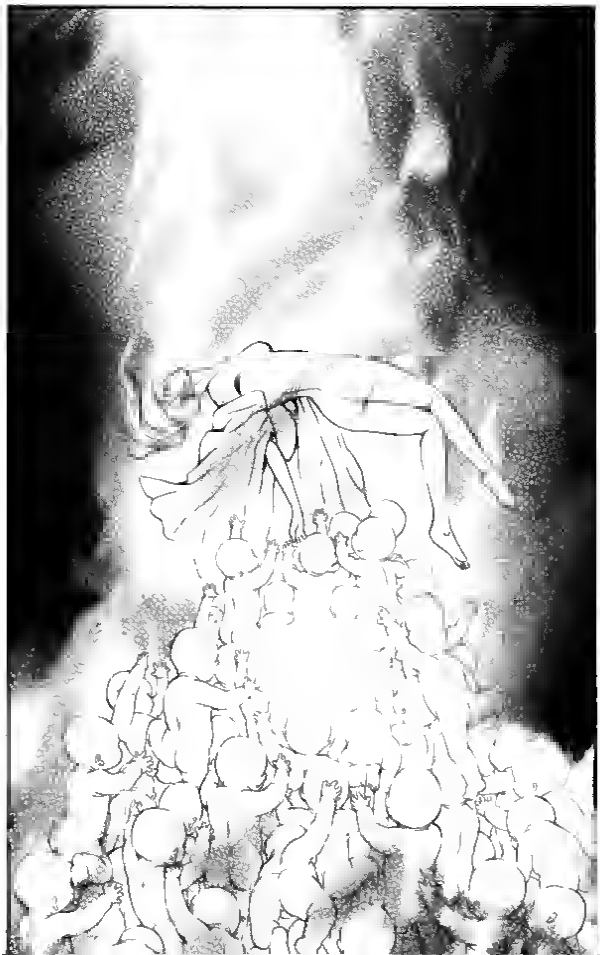
AAAAAH
O-KIN !!

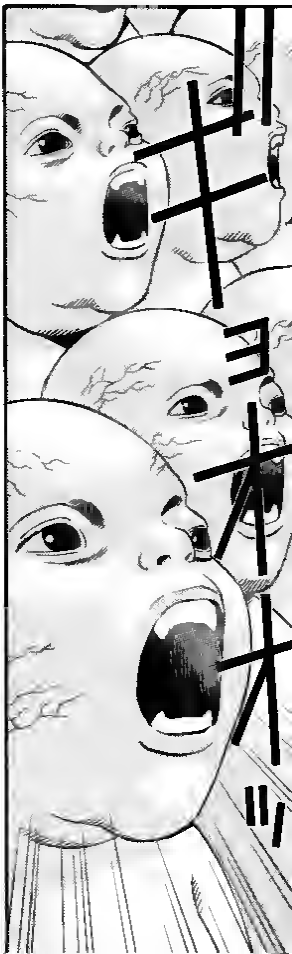
STOP IT!
NOOOOOOOOOO

O-
KIN
!!

！

キョオオオッ




キョオオ

O-
KIN
!!
ラ
ラ

JOU-
SAN
.....

DUUUH? WHUUT'S WITH DIS RUCKUS?
LOOK
SOME-THING TERRI-BLE.

DAR-LING.
WAKE UP!

!!
WHAT IS THAT THING?

28th TALE: END

第29話◎秘錠の密偵

16

O-KIN !!
JOUNO-SUKE!
YOU ARE ALSO TO BECOME A PORTION OF MYSELF!
ユルユル

WHAT IS THIS ?!

THE GOOD MAN ALWAYS COMES TO THE RESCUE IN GOOD TIME.
HERE IS THE HOLY BOLT YOU ORDERED, GOOD SIR.
HERE YOU ARE, JOUNO-SUKE. IT'S FINISHED!
TETSU-JUU.

UN.
A・BO・KYA・BEI・RO・SHA・NAU・MA・KA.
BO・DARA・NI・HAN・DOMA ...
ON.

!
WHATEVER YOU ARE PLANNING, IT'S POINTLESS.
NO ONE CAN STOP ME!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ?
THAT SIMPLE LOCK IS ENOUGH TO IMPEDE YOUR MOVEMENTS.
ALBEIT FOR A VERY SHORT TIME

NOW, TETSU-JUU!
YOU GOT IT.

YAAAARGH

!
O-
KIN
!!

THIS TIME FOR SURE, I'M GOING TO SHUT YOU AWAY.
GAHOU-MARU.

WE'RE GOOD!
I THINK YOU'RE ALSO FORGETTING SOMETHING.
I CAN'T BE SEALED INTO A LOCK LIKE THAT!

DEMONS DESTROY AND CONSUME THE DOOR THAT IS THE HUMAN HEART TO SHOW THEMSELVES INTO OUR WORLD.
THE ACT OF FASTENING ANEW THE LOCK UPON THAT DOOR AND SEALING IT AWAY IS CALLED A DOORING.

IF THE LOCK ISN'T ENOUGH.
TETSU-JUU'S SPECIAL, DEMON-SEALING HOLY BOLT.
THEN WE CLOSE THE GATE.
THAT IS WHAT WE'LL TO SEAL YOU WITH!

AAARGH
THERE'S NO ESCAPING FROM THIS DOOR, EVEN FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

AAAGH
JOU-SAN!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE LURED ME ALL THE WAY HERE!
.....
.....
DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
WE'RE WILLING TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THIS.
STOP THIS RIGHT AWAY,
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!

UUGH
NO. IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS.

I'M ON IT!
BOLT THE DOOR.
.....
.....

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE.
AND THERE'S PROBABLY NO CHANCE THOSE RUBBERNECKS EVER FIND OUT ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHAT PROTECTING EDO'S PEOPLE FROM DEMONS IS ABOUT.
WHAT A CARE-FREE LOT, REALLY.
A REAL FESTIVAL.

TETSU-SAN, I'M SURE YOU CAN SEE WHERE I COME FROM.
OH, WELL I GUESS YOU ARE RIGHT, BUT STILL
UKIHA!
I'M TALK-ING TO YOU.
TETSU-SAN.
UH... ERM, WELL.
....
....

HOW STUPID CAN I BE?
.....
CAN'T BE HER.
オオオ!
OOOH
IT'S WAILING AGAIN!
AGAIN.
.....
.....

29th TALE: END

くるり伝鬼之介
闇狙師